

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: February 26, 2009

From: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Acquisition Logistics and Construction (OALC), Center for Acquisition Innovation – Austin (CAI – Austin)

Subj: Request for Proposal No. VA-798A-09-RP-0006, Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) Project, Executive Summary

To: Prospective Offerors

1. Attached is Request for Proposal (RFP) number VA-798A-09-RP-0006 for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) requirement to develop and implement an Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS). This requirement represents a component of the Financial and Logistics Integrated Technology Enterprise (FLITE) Program, which was established to standardize functional processes and modernize the Information Technology (IT) environment supporting financial and logistics management within VA.
2. A Draft Request for Proposal (DRFP) was posted for the IFAS Project in the Federal Business Opportunity System (FEDBIZOPPS) on December 8, 2008 under number VA-798A-09-DRP-0006. The purpose of the DRFP was to preview our requirements, obtain feedback on our draft acquisition documents, and provide the opportunity for potential Offerors to work ahead in preparing proposals in anticipation of the issuance of the final RFP. Many useful comments were received and the feedback on the DRFP resulted in an improved final solicitation. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all parties who made the effort to provide us comments.
3. As a reminder, the purpose of the IFAS acquisition, in part, is to address VA's long-standing major Federal Financial Management Integrity Act (FFMIA) financial management system functionality material weakness. In addition, it is to improve financial management performance by providing a modern, efficient core financial management system that complies with Federal accounting and systems standards and provides maximum support to the VA mission. The IFAS Project must enable VA-wide implementation of expanded functional capability, full integration of critical system components, continued business process reengineering, and continued high quality production and customer support.
4. The RFP contemplates an award of a single Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ) contract where orders may be placed at VA's discretion on a Cost Plus Fixed Fee (CPFF), Cost Plus Award Fee (CPAF), or Fixed Price (FP) basis, depending on the nature of the specific order requirements. The ordering period is 120 months with an additional 12-month period for completion of the orders. The ordering procedures are described in Special Contract Requirement H.13 of the RFP. The orders will be issued against the Basic ID/IQ Contract to acquire the specific items and services that will accomplish the IFAS Project objectives. We expect performance on the orders will be

at both VA sites and contractor site(s). The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Financial Management Line of Business (FMLoB) guidance calls for VA to conduct a "public-private competition" to accomplish the IFAS Project. Consistent with the FMLoB approach, VA will consider offers submitted by Federal Shared Service Providers (SSPs) for Financial Management. Should a Federal SSP be determined to offer the best value at the conclusion of the evaluation process, the final RFP will be cancelled and VA will enter into an Interagency Agreement (IA) with that Federal SSP to satisfy IFAS requirements.

5. This is a competitive acquisition, open for competition with all interested parties, including large and small business concerns as well as Federal SSPs. Using source selection procedures described in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 15.3, we contemplate making a single award (either a contract to a commercial entity or an IA to a Federal SSP) to the responsible Offeror whose proposal is responsive to the solicitation requirements and is determined to offer the best value to VA. Section L of the RFP provides the Instructions to Offerors; paragraph L.15 provides our specific proposal requirements. The RFP has a requirement for an overall proposal to accomplish the IFAS Project objectives as well as four (4) "Sample Orders." Some or all of the "Sample Orders" may be issued concurrently with the Basic ID/IQ Contract award. As part of the overall proposal, Offerors will be asked to provide a cost/price proposal for the IFAS Project based on their technical solution (the end-state software and hosting environment) and technical approach (strategy and services to reach the technical solution). The Basic ID/IQ contract maximum will be based on the overall eleven (11) year amount accepted from the Offeror determined to be best value to VA. The North American Industrial Code System (NAICS) code 541512 applies to the RFP.

6. Please note, the entity selected for award must comply with rigorous personnel, physical, network, and data security requirements during performance. Additionally, Earned Value Management requirements apply to this acquisition. Also, the entity selected for award will work closely with other VA contractors, including the Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) contractor, the Program Management Office Support (PMOS) contractor, and the Strategic Asset Management contractor. To avoid Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) issues, the entity selected for award cannot participate on other significant portions of the FLITE Program as detailed in Special Contract Requirement H.5 of the RFP. I encourage your thorough review of the RFP to ensure you have a complete understanding of all our requirements, terms and conditions, proposal instructions, and evaluation factors.

7. One significant change to highlight in the final RFP is an acceleration of the schedule for deployment of the IFCAP Replacement across VA. The schedule included in the DRFP's Statement of Work, paragraph 3.9, entitled "Rollout Planning and Deployment," detailed a 50-month schedule to complete the Development, Pilot, Beta, and National Deployment of the IFCAP Replacement component of IFAS. The revised schedule contained in the final RFP for IFCAP Replacement now reflects a 36-month schedule for Development through National Deployment.

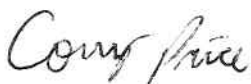
8. Our goal is to do everything possible to ensure the acquisition and the resultant contract/IA is successful. In accordance with Section L.9 of the RFP, please submit any questions pertaining to the RFP to me by 4:00 PM (CENTRAL TIME) on March 6, 2009 so I can provide timely responses. All questions received and VA responses will be made public and any necessary edits to ensure the anonymity of the source(s) of the questions will be made. It is important to note that the DRFP process does not require us to provide responses to specific questions or make changes to the final RFP based upon the feedback received. If you find that your comments or feedback from the DRFP process were not addressed in the RFP, please feel free to present those same questions again and we will be happy to publicly address or provide an explanation.

9. A Pre-Proposal Conference is planned for this acquisition in McLean, Virginia, on March 10 - 11, 2009. Conference attendance is not mandatory to submit an offer. Section L.4 of the RFP contains the specific instructions to register to attend this conference. Our presentation materials for the Pre-Proposal Conference will be available approximately 2 business days in advance at <http://www.va.gov/flite/acquisition/ifas/rfp.asp>.

10. Proposals are due to me by 4:00 PM (CENTRAL TIME) on April 27, 2009; please see Section L.11 of the RFP for specific information regarding the proposal due date and submission address. Please direct all communications pertaining to this acquisition to me. My contact information is also contained in Blocks 7 and 10 of the Standard Form (SF) 33 of the RFP as well as in Section L.11. Senior-level VA leadership has been informed of the RFP issuance and requested to direct all IFAS acquisition inquiries to me. To maintain a disciplined acquisition process and fair competition, contact, whether formal or informal, with any VA official other than me is strictly prohibited.

11. Thank you for your interest in the IFAS Project. We look forward to working with you to make this acquisition a success. My phone number is (512) 383-4303.

Sincerely,



Cory Price
Contracting Officer

Attachment:
RFP No. VA-798A-09-RP-0006